

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MUSCAT 00852 141026Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4427
AMEMBASSY ABUDHABI
INFO AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T MUSCAT 0852

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TC
SUBJECT: POLITICAL TENSIONS IN THE UAE

REF STATE 141246

1. CHARGE HAD BRIEF DISCUSSION WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY POLITICAL CHIEF SADEK SULAIMAN ON JUNE 14 ABOUT POLITICAL TENSIONS IN UAE. DRAWING SELECTIVELY FROM TALKING POINTS IN REFTTEL, CHARGE SAID (A) U.S., BEING FEDERAL STATE ITSELF, HAS ALWAYS BEEN SYMPATHETIC TO UAE FEDERATION EFFORTS; (B) SUG BELIEVES STABILITY OF REGION, WHICH IS OF CONCERN TO ALL GULF STATES, IS BEST FOSTERED BY CONTINUED UAE FEDERATION; (C) USG IS EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF FEDERATION IN TALKS WITH UAE LEADERSHIP. THESE REMARKS WERE PUT IN CONTEXT OF HAVING HEARD REPORTS OF RISING DISAGREEMENT AMONG UAE RULERS, AND OF WISHING TO HAVE ASSESSMENT OF UAE'S NEIGHBORS INCLUDING OMAN.

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2. SULAIMAN REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE CURRENT SQUABBLES WITHIN UAE ARE SERIOUS ENOUGH TO CAUSE BREAK-UP OF FEDERATION. SIGNIFICANT COHESIVE FACTORS EXIST. LONG-TERM PICTURE, HOWEVER, IS MORE MURKY, HE FELT, BECAUSE OF FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES IN SIZE, POWER, AND OUTLOOK AMONG EMIRATES.

3. COMMENT: ABOVE DISCUSSION WAS CONFINED TO GENERALITIES,

AND CHARGE THOUGHT IT BEST TO KEEP IT THAT WAY. HE DID NOT, FOR
EXAMPLE, RAISE ISSUE OF RAS AL-KHAIMAH BORDER DISPUTE WITH OMAN
AS ELEMENT IN THE EQUATION, AND SULAIMAN DID NOT MENTIONIT
EITHER. BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT POINT WAS PUT ACROSS THAT USG
SUPPORTS UAE FEDERATION AND THINKS OTHER STATES INTERESTED IN
REGIONAL STABILITY WOULD WISH TO DO THE SAME.
SIZER

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